

In the Claims

1-17 (canceled).

18 (new). An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein comprising a membrane-spanning domain of an endocytotic receptor and an extracellular domain, wherein said extracellular domain binds biotin.

19 (new). The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 18, wherein said protein encoded by said nucleic acid molecule further comprises a cytoplasmic domain.

20 (new). The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 18, wherein said extracellular domain comprises a domain of avidin or streptavidin that binds biotin.

21 (new). The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 19, wherein said extracellular domain comprises a domain of avidin or streptavidin that binds biotin.

22 (new). The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 18, wherein said endocytotic receptor is a scavenger receptor class A.

23 (new). The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 18, wherein said protein encoded by said nucleic acid molecule comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO. 2.

24 (new). The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 18, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 1071-2270 of SEQ ID NO. 1.

25 (new). A recombinant expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 18.

26 (new). The recombinant expression vector according to claim 25, wherein the protein encoded by said nucleic acid molecule comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO. 2.

27 (new). The recombinant expression vector according to claim 25, wherein said expression vector is a retrovirus vector.

28. (new). A process for the production of a protein that comprises a membrane-spanning domain and an extracellular domain, wherein said extracellular domain binds biotin, said method comprising transfecting a cell line with a recombinant expression vector according to claim 25, and expressing said protein in the transfected cells.

29 (new). A medicament for therapeutic use comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein comprising a membrane-spanning domain of an endocytotic receptor and an extracellular domain, wherein said extracellular domain binds biotin.

30 (new). The medicament according to claim 29, wherein said protein encoded by said nucleic acid molecule further comprises a cytoplasmic domain.

31 (new). The medicament according to claim 29, wherein said extracellular domain comprises a domain of avidin or streptavidin that binds biotin.

32 (new). The medicament according to claim 30, wherein said extracellular domain comprises a domain of avidin or streptavidin that binds biotin.

33 (new). The medicament according to claim 29, wherein said endocytotic receptor is a scavenger receptor class A.

34 (new). The medicament according to claim 29, wherein said protein encoded by said

nucleic acid molecule comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO. 2.

35 (new). The medicament according to claim 29, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 1071-2270 of SEQ ID NO. 1.

36 (new). The medicament according to claim 29, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is provided as a recombinant expression vector.

37 (new). The medicament according to claim 29, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is provided in a complex with a liposome, polyethyleneimine, dendrimer, or peptide.